

Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District

CONSERVATION NEWS

Spring Issue 2013

Adams County Youth Camp

The Warren A. Hood Soil & Water Conservation Youth Camp is held at Hinds Community College in Raymond the first week of June. Participants from high schools in each Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) learn more about conserving our natural resources. Hands-on activities concerning cropland, grassland, woodland, and wildlife are conducted during the week. Local and state resource professionals assist with the field trips and planned recreation to make this educational experience lots of fun! Two students from Natchez High School were approved by the Adams County SWCD Commissioners to attend this year's camp: Aaron Cornelius (see photo below, left) is currently in the 10th grade and Angel Brooks (see photo below, right) is currently in the 11th grade.



Aaron Cornelius



Angel Brooks

NACD Poster Contest



One-hundred eighty-nine students from Adams County Christian School participated in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) poster contest this year. Entries were judged by the Adams County SWCD commissioners and employees. The first place winners from the district in each category are sent to be judged at the NRCS south area summer meeting. The posters are judged at the state and national level. The top two winners in each category at the national level receive a monetary prize.

The top 3 poster contest entries for each category from Adams county this year:

<u>K-1st Grade</u>	<u>2nd-3rd Grade</u>	<u>4th-6th Grade</u>	<u>7th-9th Grade</u>	<u>10th-12th Grade</u>
Reagan Rabb	Rebecca Ratcliff	Lane Rehms	Anna Babb	Ashley Wilson
Camren Strittman	Reagan Lea	Rilegh Walters	Amber Morace	Seth Sanford
Wyatt Hollowell	Leia Wesberry	Blake Rutland	Ashleigh Williams	Madison Malone

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MACD Meeting News

Commissioners Virginia Salmon and Ross McGehee, and Pat Williams, District Coordinator, and Keri Jones, District Project Technician, attended the 68th annual conference of the MACD, Inc. The meeting was held at the Hilton Jackson Hotel in Jackson, MS. Ashley Wilson received an award for her poster in the MACD Poster Contest in the 7th – 9th Grade category. Ashley attends Adams County Christian School (ACCS) in Natchez. Ms. Kim Godfrey was presented with the 2012 Teacher of the Year award grades K – 6. Ms. Godfrey is a teacher at Susie B. West School in Natchez. Everyone agreed it was a great convention.

“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.”

Aristotle

Arbor Day Events

Adams County SWCD celebrated Arbor Day in Mississippi on February 8, 2013. The District gave away 3000 loblolly pines and sold several varieties of tree seedlings and fruit trees.

District employees, along with Adams County Extension Service Employees, Dr. David Carter and Jason Jones, visited all 3rd grade students in the area. They absolutely love Sam E. Soil and we love seeing their excitement. They ask great questions pertaining to soil and water conservation. Sam E. Soil is a great teacher. It was a fun day for all of us.



Pat Williams, District Coordinator and Hattie Harris, Earth Team volunteer assist at the Adams Co. SWCD tree sale.



Adams County Christian School (ACCS) students with Sam E. Soil

NRCS Success Story

Adams County contains loess soil, which formed from wind deposits thousands of years ago. In some areas, it may be as much as 60-80 ft. deep. This fertile soil is low in clay content, thus highly erodible, so landowners in Adams County are prone to find washouts in backyards, timberland and pastures. When large gullies are formed, livestock are endangered and usable soil is lost. Mr. Willie Plummer faced this problem recently, with a 30-ft. drop off in one of his pastures (see photo, bottom left). The NRCS EQIP program provides an incentive for landowners to follow the NRCS design to stop the erosion, preventing further soil loss. In Mr. Plummer's case, a dam was constructed to control the flow of water to a drainage pipe (see photo, bottom right). This pipe directed the water to the bottom of the gully. Mulch, seed, and fertilizer were distributed along the dam and slopes to encourage vegetation. Once grass was established, livestock were returned to the pasture.



Upcoming Events

Pat Williams, District Coordinator in Adams County is looking forward to attending the MCDEA Conference to be held at the Diamond Head Resort July 23rd through 26th.

Virginia Salmon and Bob Barrett are making plans to attend the National Watershed Conference in Tunica, MS, May 19-22. The emphasis of this year's conference is "The future of watershed based natural conservation." Mrs. Salmon will also attend the MACD Conservation Tour in October. The tour includes Red Hills Mine in Choctaw Co., several Amish farms in Pontotoc Co., the Amish area in Tennessee, a Botanical Garden Tour in Huntsville and the Grand Ole Opry.

The next meeting of the Adams County SWCD Commissioners will be held on May 16, 2013.